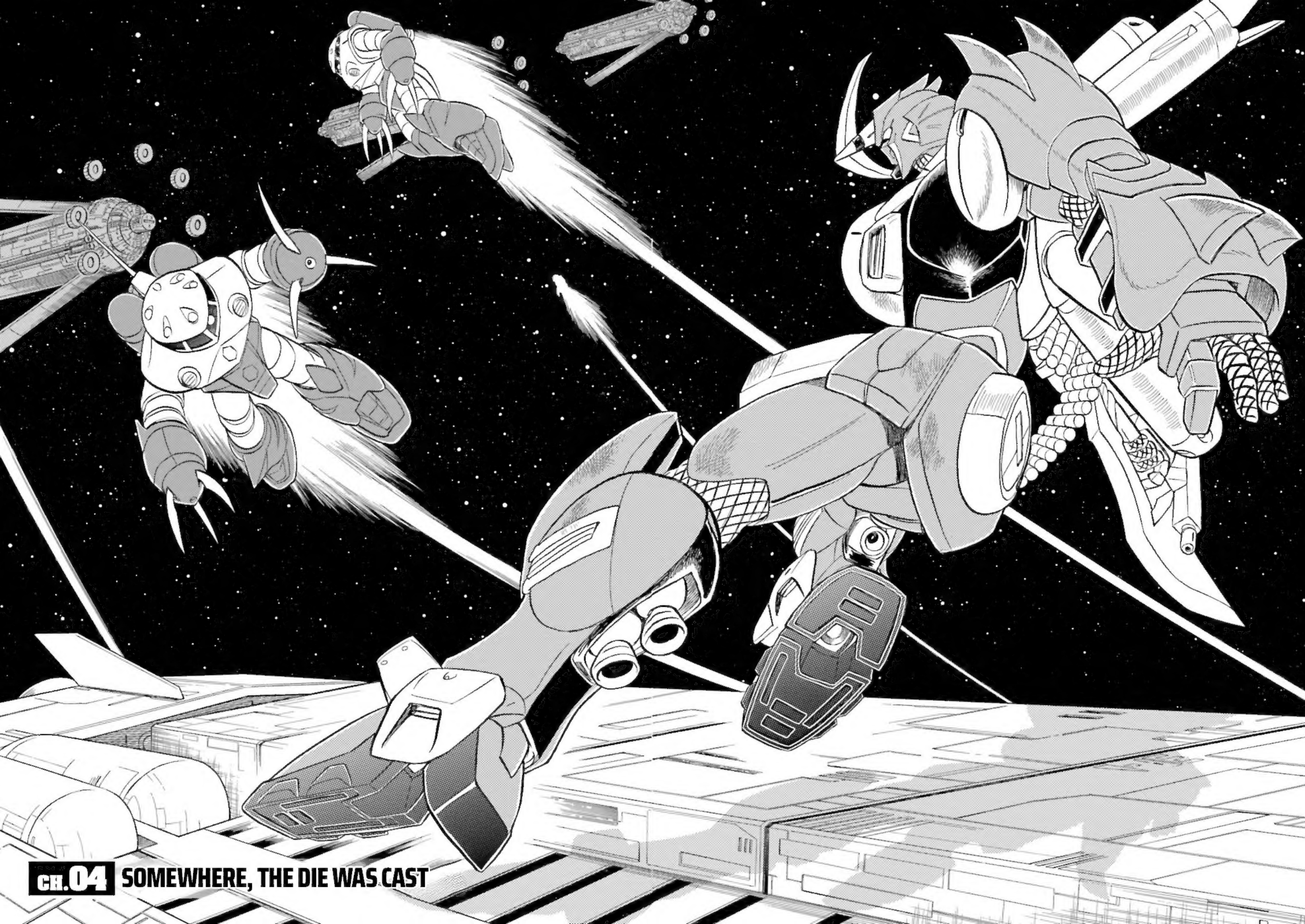
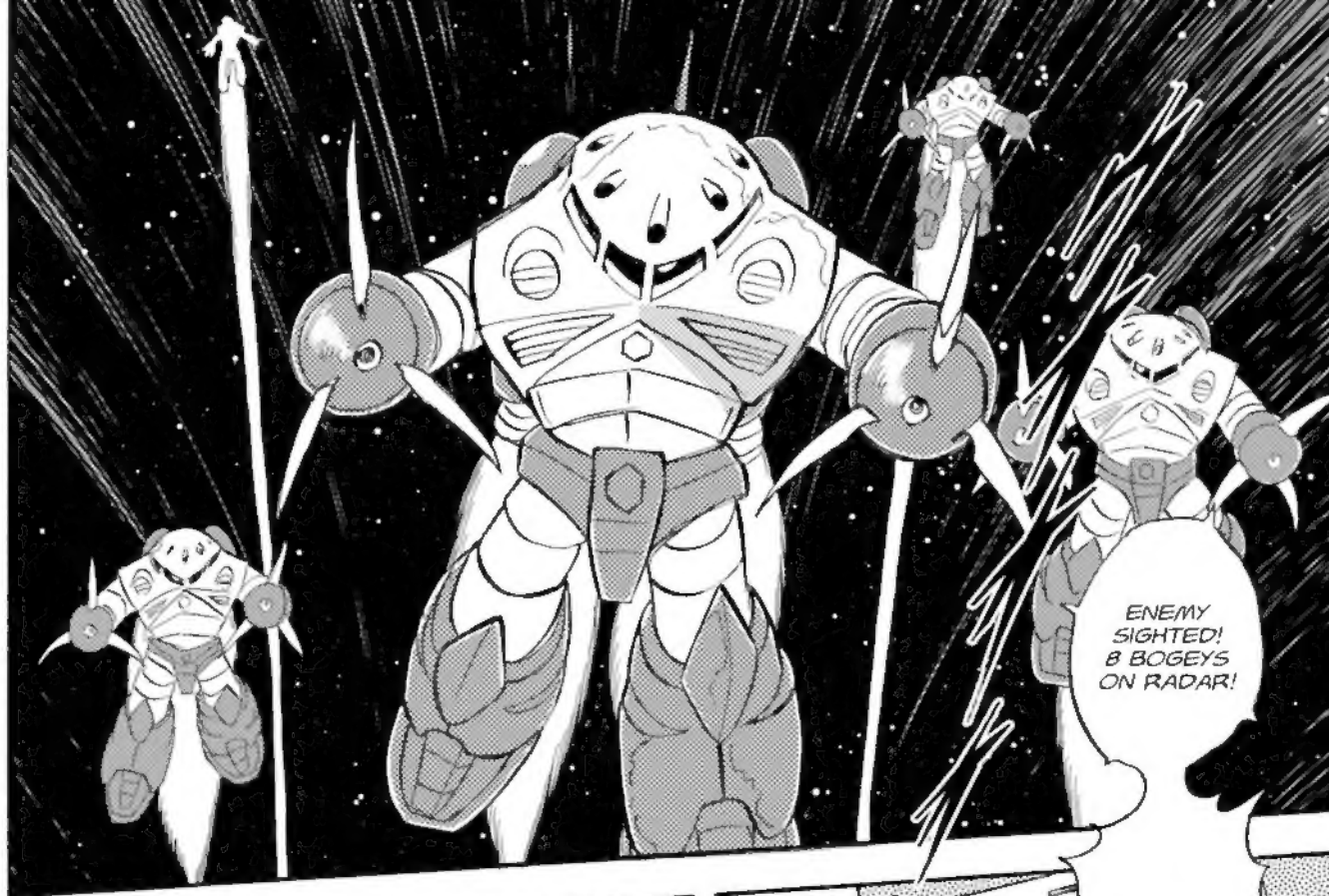










THIS'LL
BE A...

CAKE-
WALK--

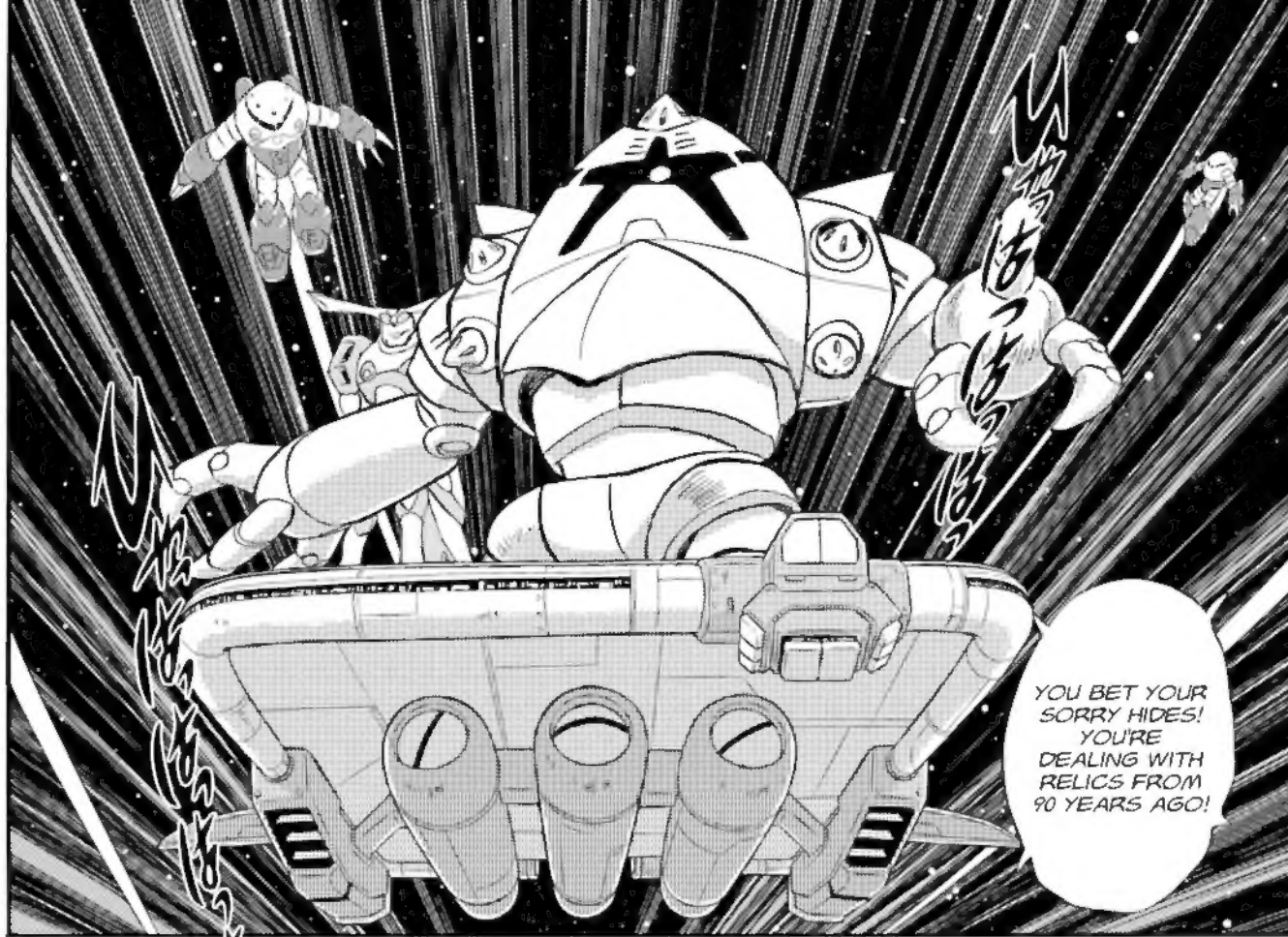


LEAD
WITH THAT
CRUCIAL INFO
NEXT TIME!
THAT'S THE
IMPORTANT
PART!

OH DEAR,
MAYBE I
WASN'T
CLEAR...

AMPHIBIOUS
UNITS
TYPICALLY COME
LOADED WITH
BUILT-IN BEAM
WEAPONS!
IT'S A SERIOUS
THREAT!

YOU...
YOU
NUMB-
SKULL!



YOU BET YOUR
SORRY HIDES!
YOU'RE
DEALING WITH
RELICS FROM
90 YEARS AGO!



...THESE RELICS
COME LOADED
WITH BEAM
CANNONS!
THE KIND OF
FIREPOWER
YOU CAN'T JUST
PICK UP AT
YOUR LOCAL
SCRAPYARD!

TO PUT IT IN
TERMS EVEN
YOU DIMWITS
CAN GRASP,
THEY'RE
NOTHING
SPECIAL ON
THEIR OWN.

BUT HERE'S WHERE
MY GENIUS SHINES
THROUGH: IN THIS
DAY AND AGE...



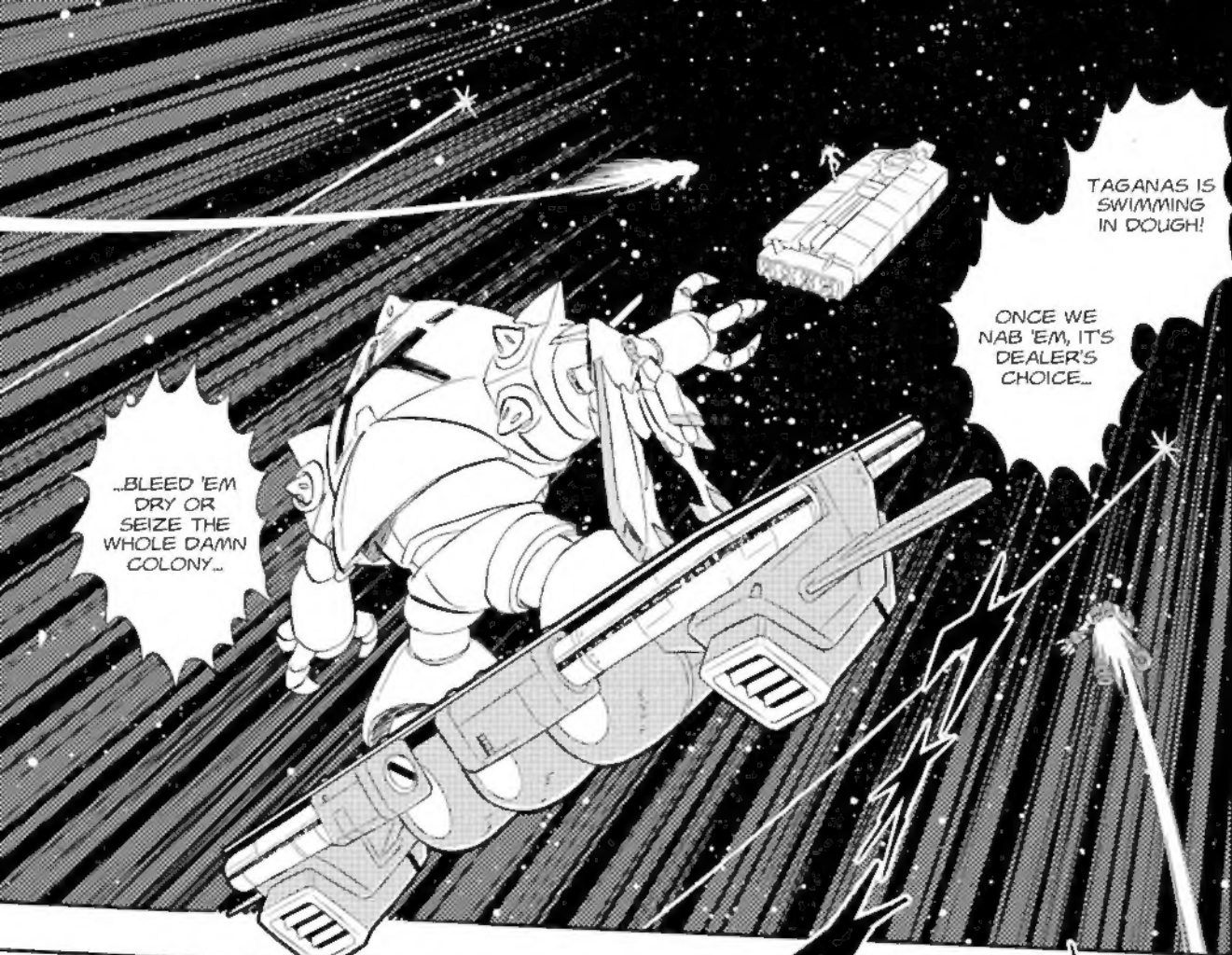
WE'RE
GONNA STOP
THOSE
SUCKERS
DEAD IN
THEIR
TRACKS!

HERE'S THE
PLAN, SO
LISTEN UP!
TARGET
THEIR SHIP
FIRST!

BASK
IN THE
BRILLIANCE
OF MY
STRATEGIC
MIND!

SEE WHAT I'M
GETTING AT?









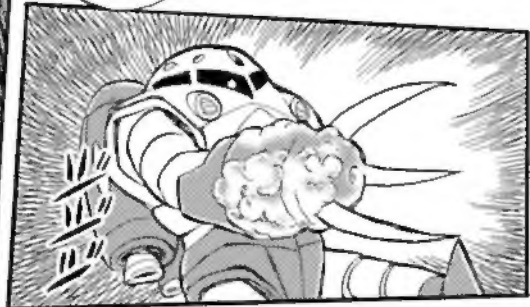
SO IF WE
DANCE
AROUND
THEM...
...KEEP 'EM
ON THEIR
TOES...

...THOSE
BEAMS'LL
BE PAPER-
WEIGHTS
BEFORE
LONG!



IN SPACE?
IT'LL OVER-
HEAT LIKE
CRAZY!

THEY'VE
GOT...
TWO,
THREE
SHOTS,
TOPS!



WELL NOW--
THINK YOU
CAN DANCE
YOUR WAY
OUT OF
THIS ONE?



WITH 8
UNITS, WE'RE
LOOKING AT
32 SHOTS
TO DODGE!

SO 3
SHOTS
PUTS IT
AT 48?

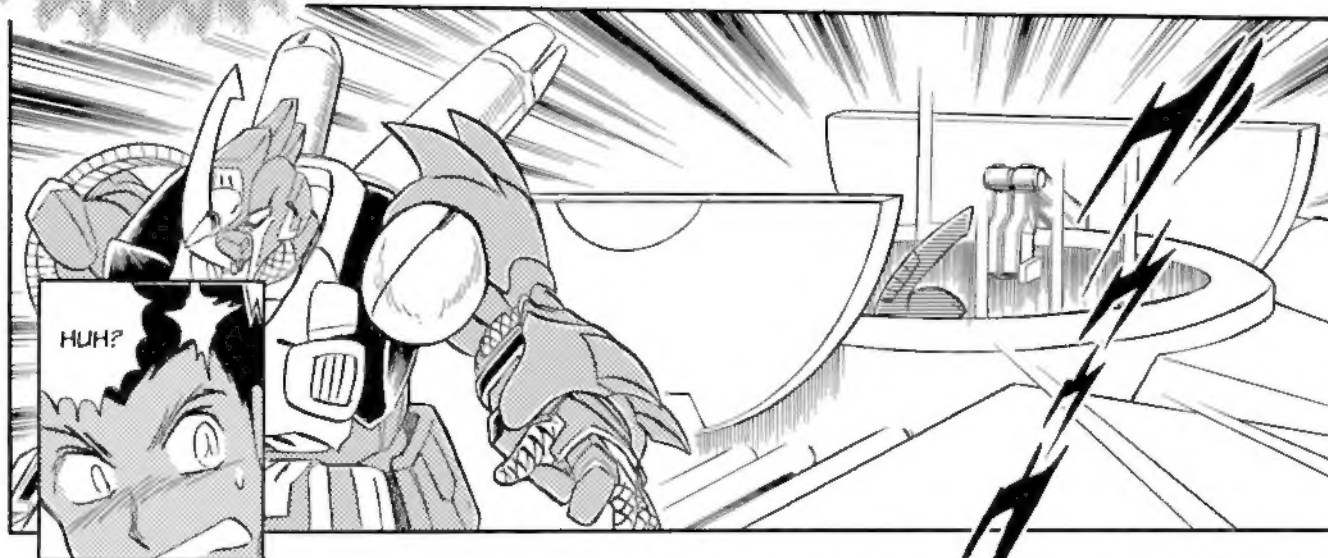
THEY'RE
ONE-
AND-
DONE!

BUT...
EVEN AT
TWO SHOTS
EACH,
THAT'S 4
PER UNIT.

HIS SHIP
CAN'T TAKE
THAT
BEATING!
WHAT
TO
DO?

THAT'S
OVERKILL!

DANCE?
NO WAY!



THEY'VE
GOT YOU
IN THEIR
CROSS-
HAIRS!

ARE YOU
CRAZY?
GET BACK
INSIDE!



HEY!
WHOA!



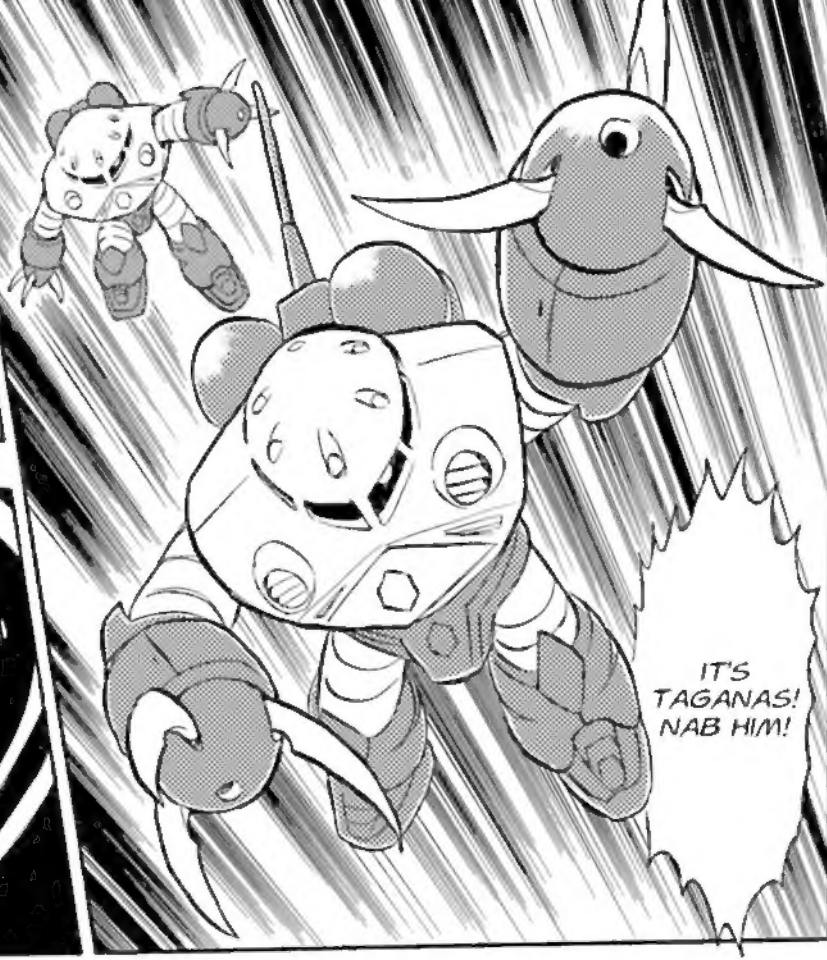
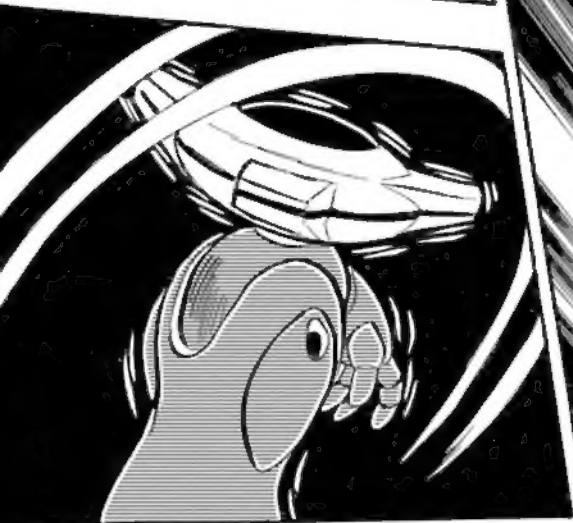
WHAT'S
THE BIG
IDEA, YOU
ASK?

WHAT'S
THE BIG
IDEA, OLD
TIMER?!

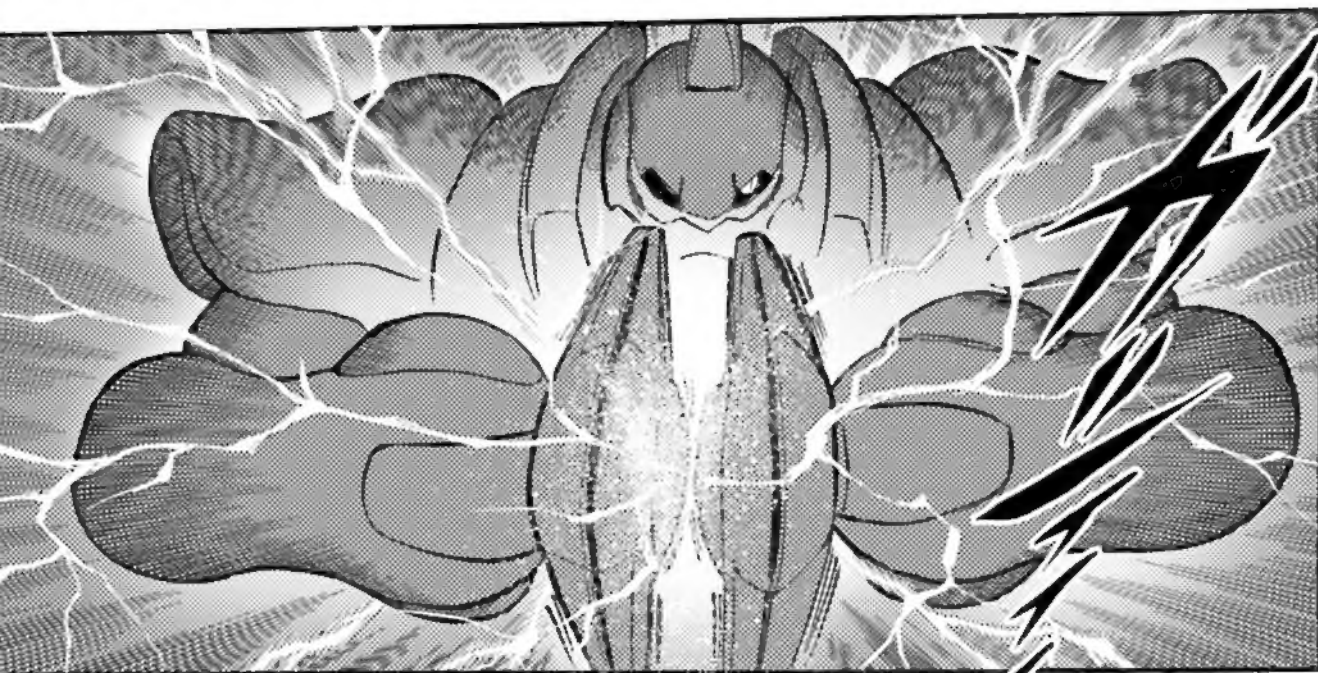




ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS?

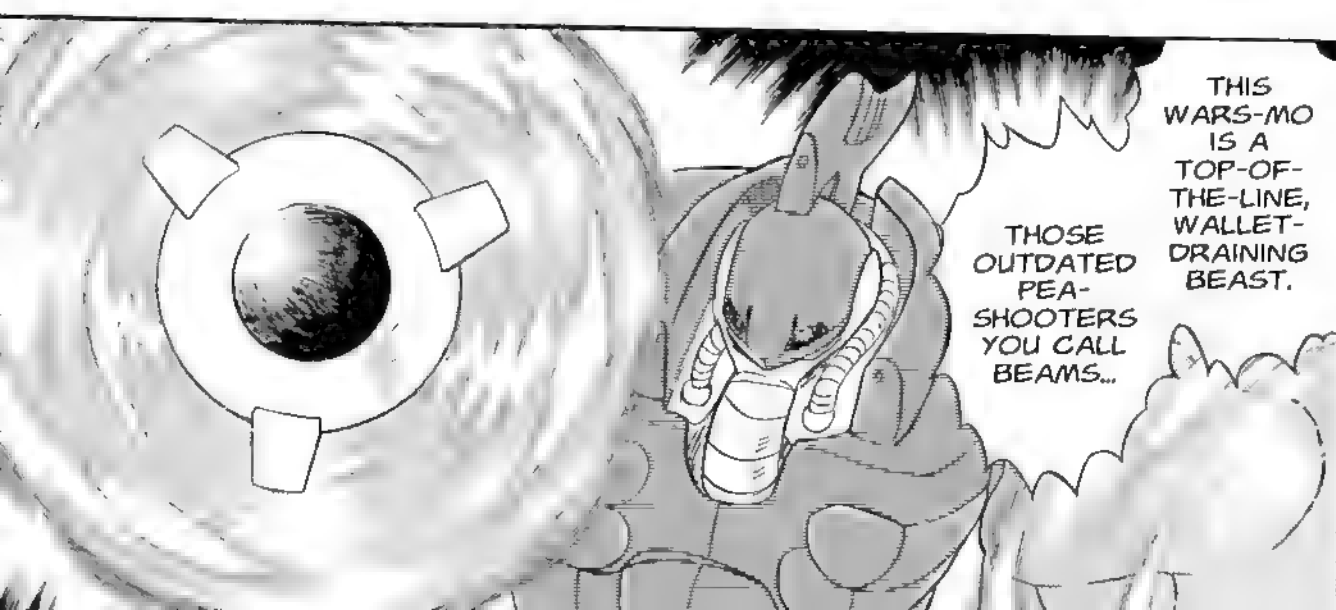


IT'S
TAGANAS!
NAB HIM!



THOUGHT I'D
RETURN THE
FAVOR!

I'M HERE TO
DO A SOLID
FOR THE
PIPSQUEAK
TRYING TO
BUTTER
ME UP!













CAN'T
PULL THE
TRIGGER,
CAN YOU?

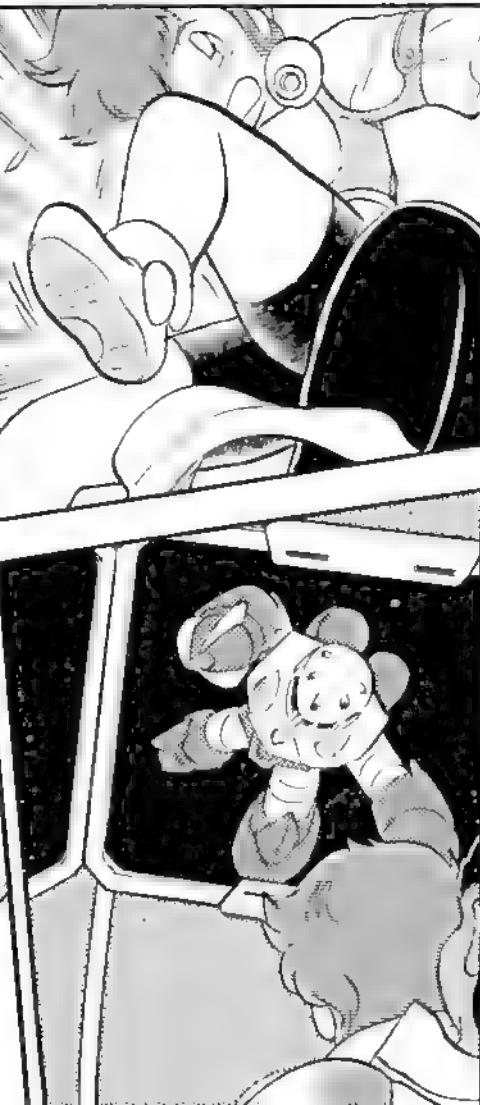


SHI--

WE CAN'T
FIRE NOW
OR WE'LL
HIT OUR
OWN
GUYS!



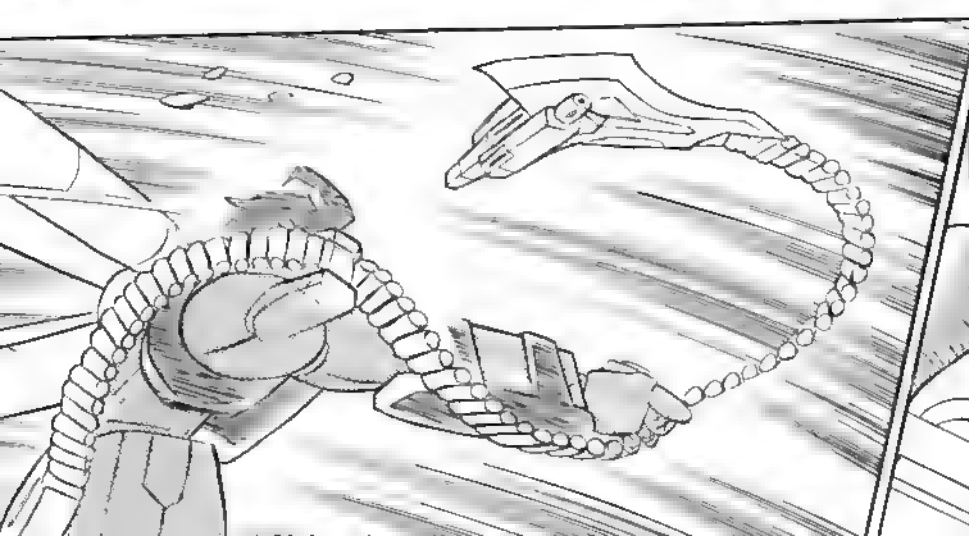
THEN I'LL
JUST HAVE
TO KEEP IT
THAT WAY!







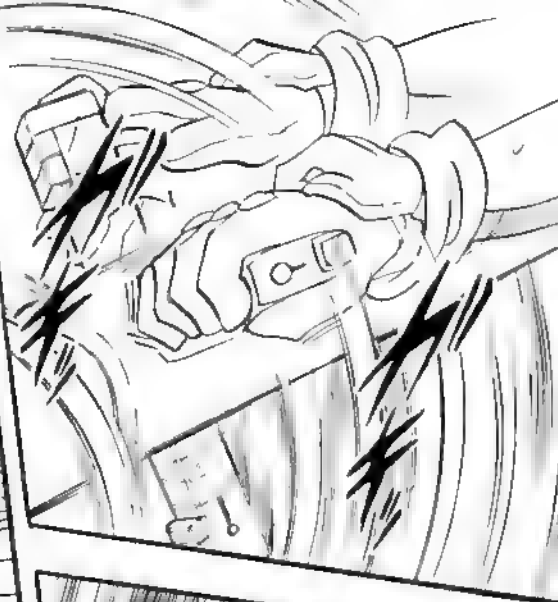
Y-YOU
IDIOTS!
FORGET
HIM!





WAH!

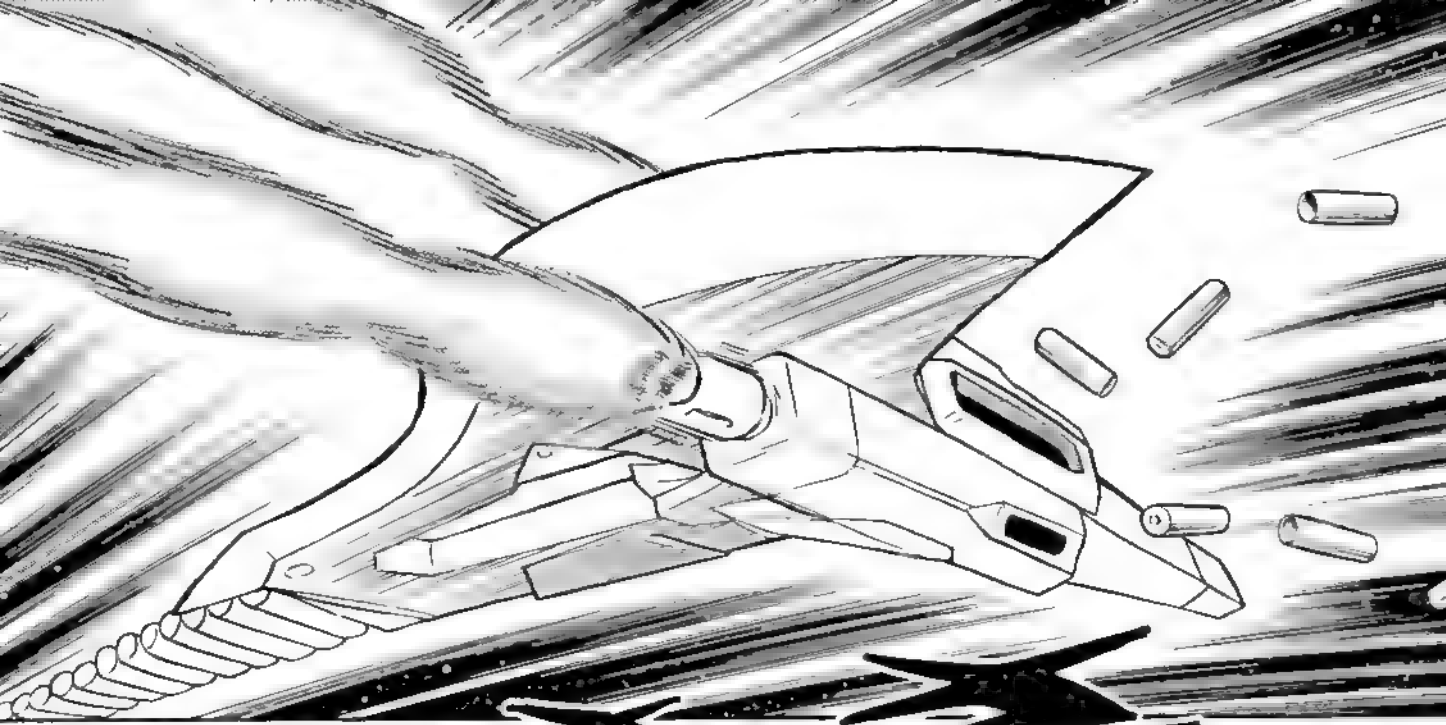
AH!



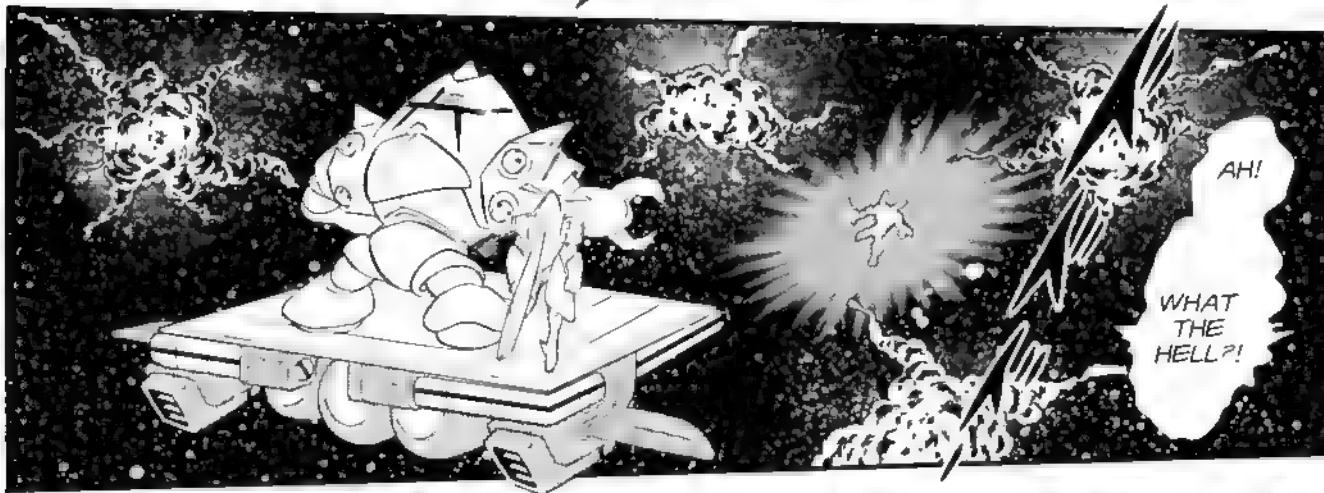
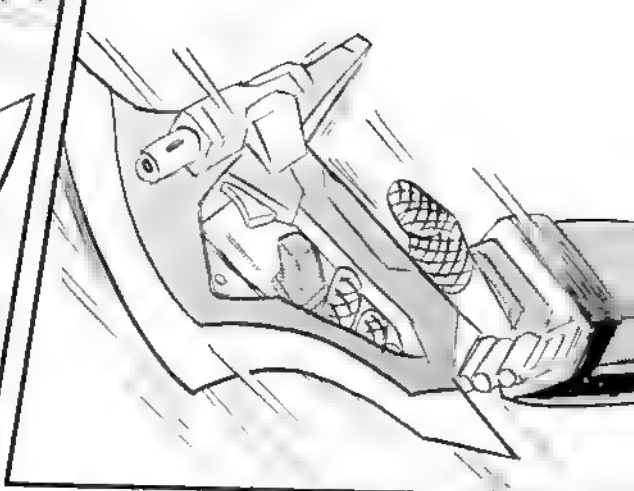
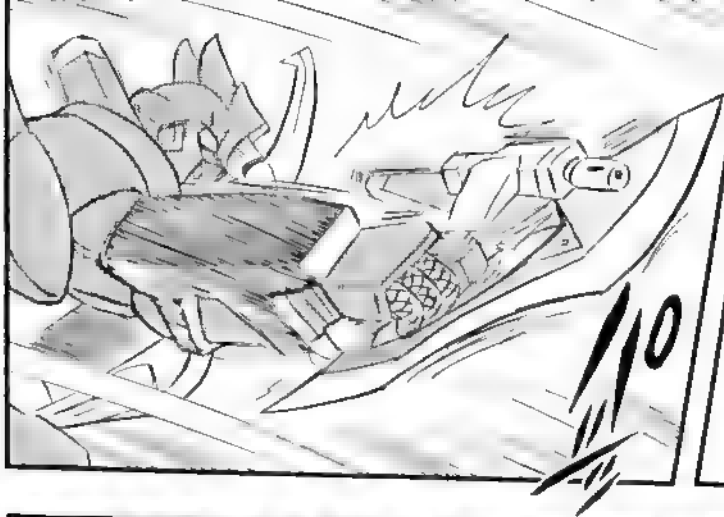
THERE'S...
THERE'S NO
WAY I CAN
TRACK THIS...

HE'S
ZIPPING
AROUND
LIKE A
PINBALL!









AH!

WHAT
THE
HELL?!



KEK
KEK
KEK



HA
HA
HA

NOW'S THE
TIME TO
PROVE
YOUR
WORTH!
MOONLIGHT
CRANE!

Y-YOU
GO
NOW...

WE'VE
BEEN...
WIPED
OUT? EVERY
LAST
ONE OF
US?
DAMN
IT ALL!





THAT ONE...
NOW HE
LOOKS LIKE
HE MIGHT
BE WORTH
MY TIME!



WH-
WHAT?!

I'M
OUT!

?



AS IF I, THE
INVINCIBLE
DANCER,
WOULD EVER
STOOP TO
AIDING
THIEVES FOR
A PALTRY
SUM!

THAT'S A
LOAD OF
GODSWAL-
LOP!

YOU
TRAITOR-
OUS
SCUM...

YOU'RE
TURNING
YOUR
BACK ON
US?!



...IDENTIFYING
THOSE OF USE
SHOULD I
CHOOSE TO
INTERVENE.

ONE
SUCH AS I,
FOLLOWING
MY OWN
COUNSEL...

... HAVE
MERELY
BEEN
ASSESSING
THIS
UPROAR...



HANDLE
YOUR OWN
MESS, YOU
FOOL!



Y-
YOU...

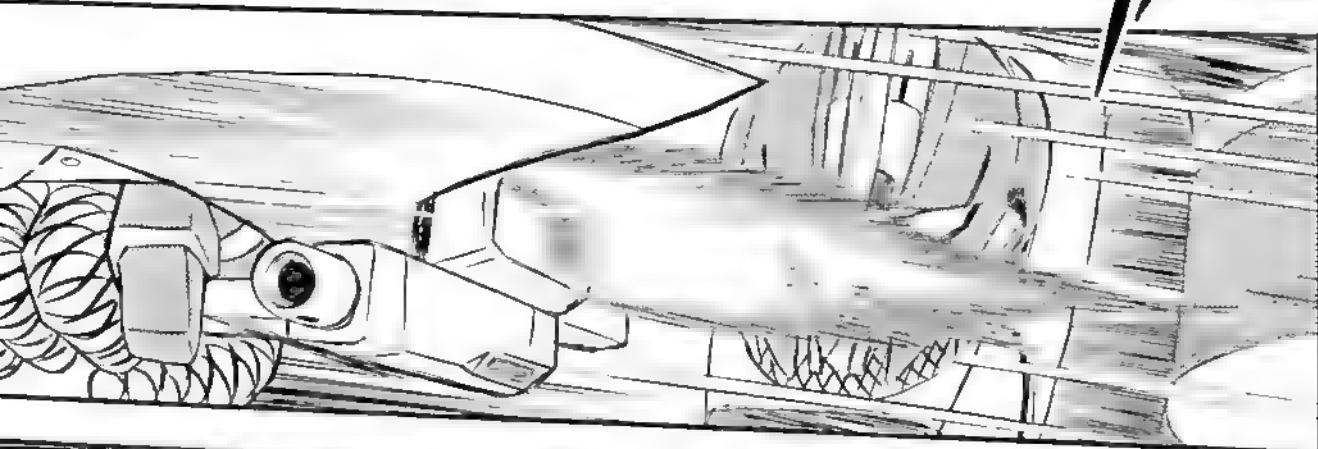
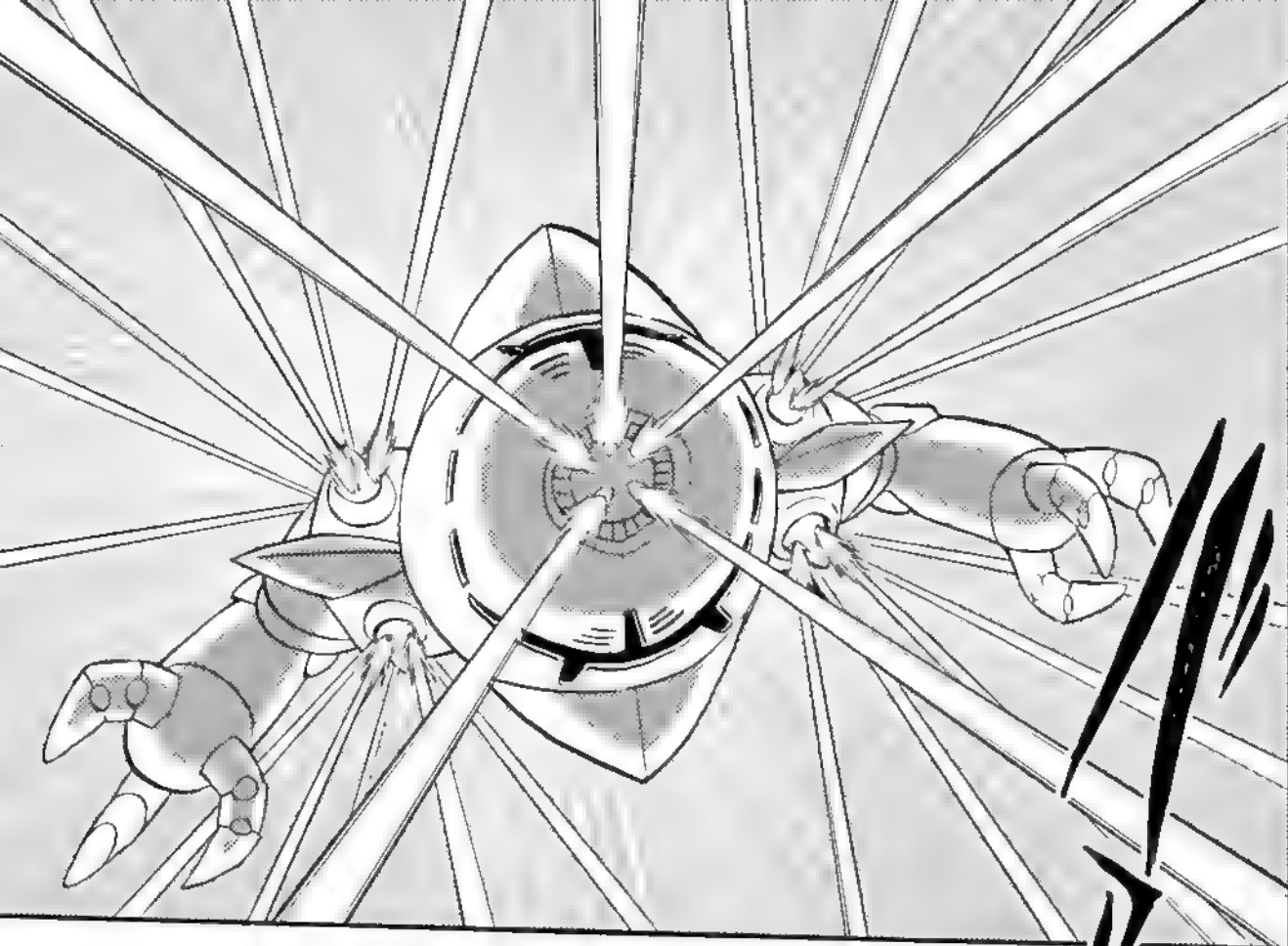
BACK-
STAB-
BING
BITCH!



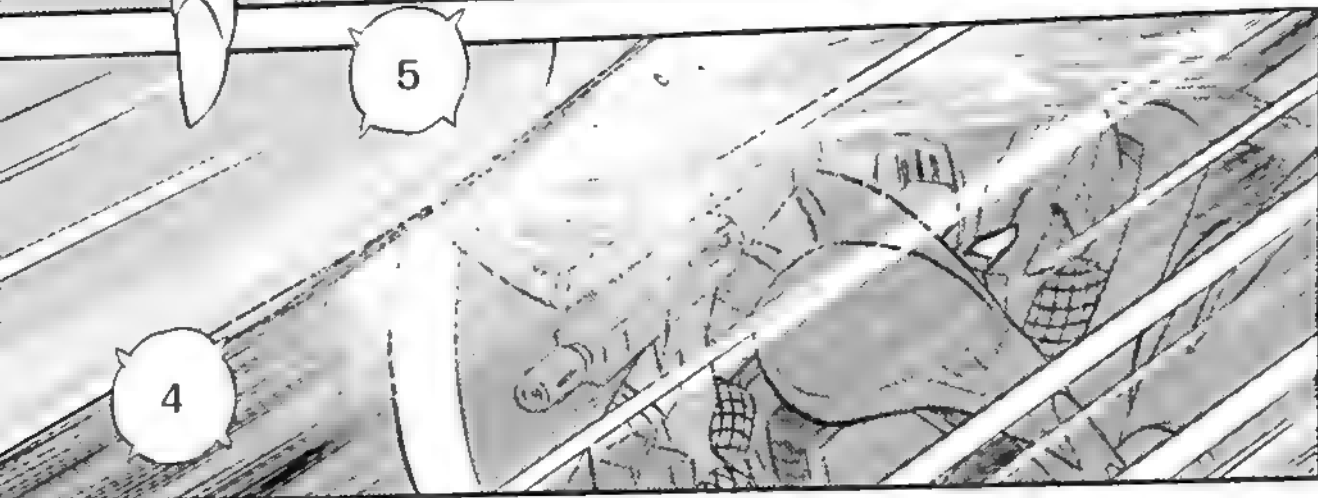
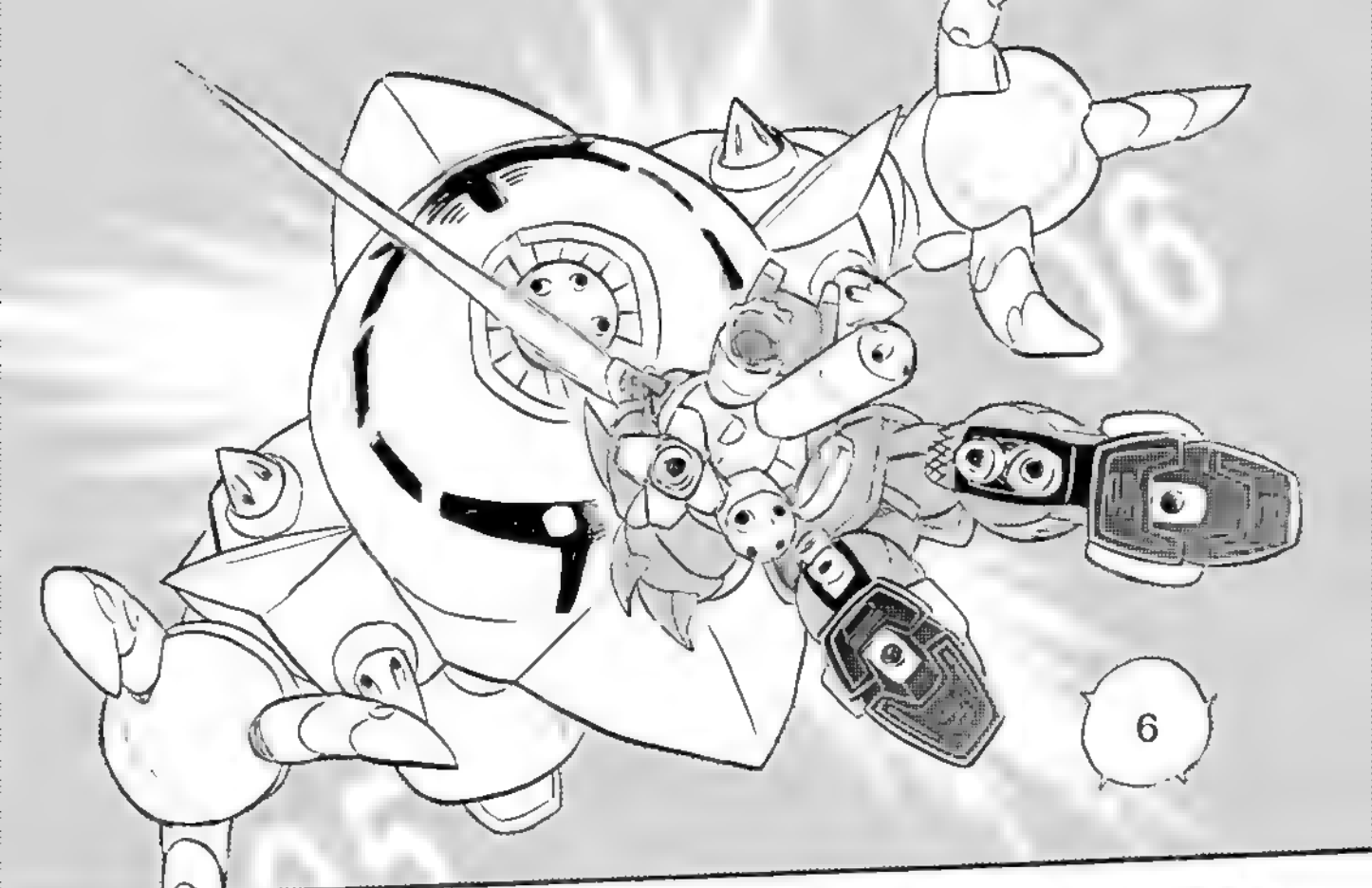
DAMN IT
ALL!
IF THIS IS
HOW IT'S
GONNA
BE...

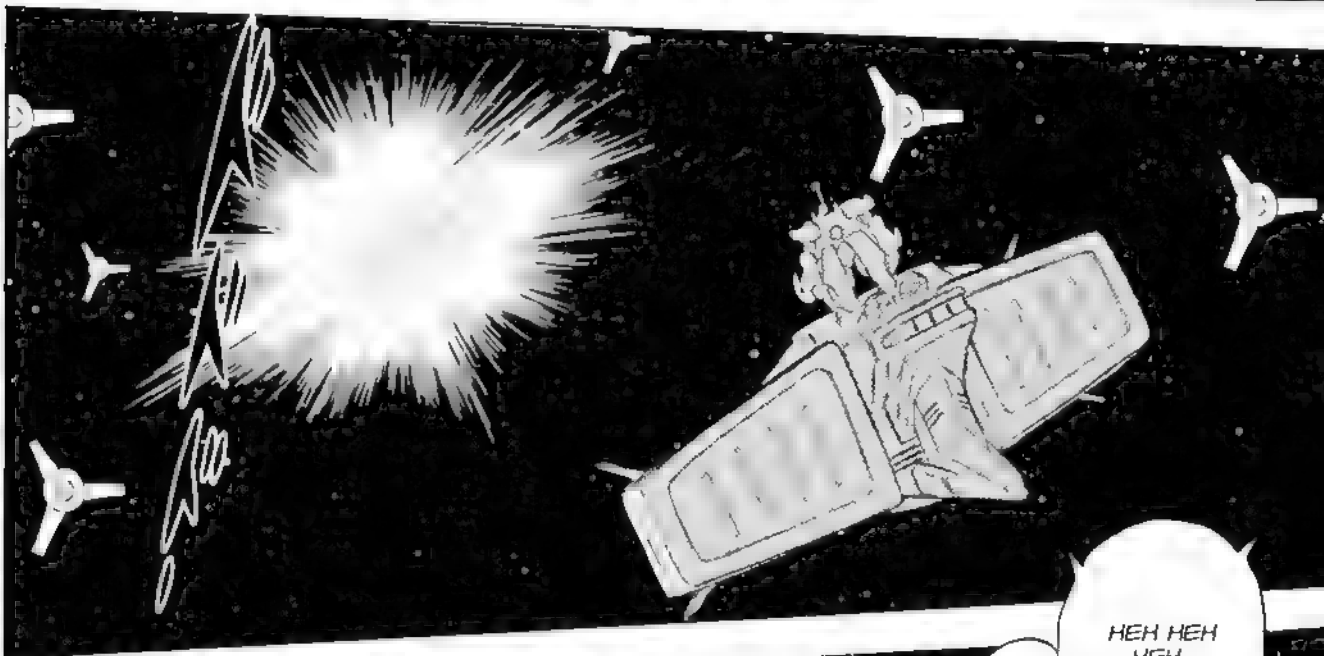
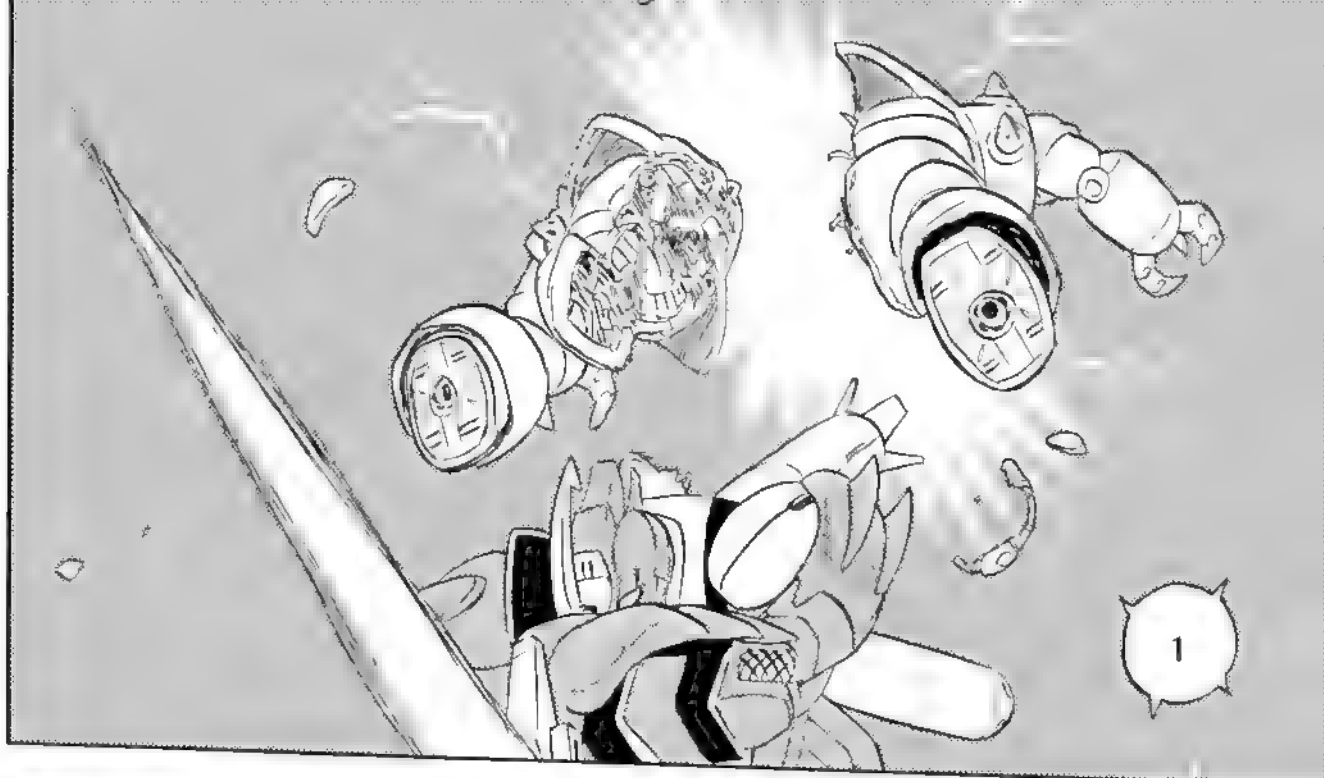
...I'LL GO
DOWN
SWINGING!

WAAAA!









HA HA HA,
THAT'S
RIGHT

HUH? BUT
ISN'T HE
JUST SOME
PUNK YOU
DON'T LIKE?

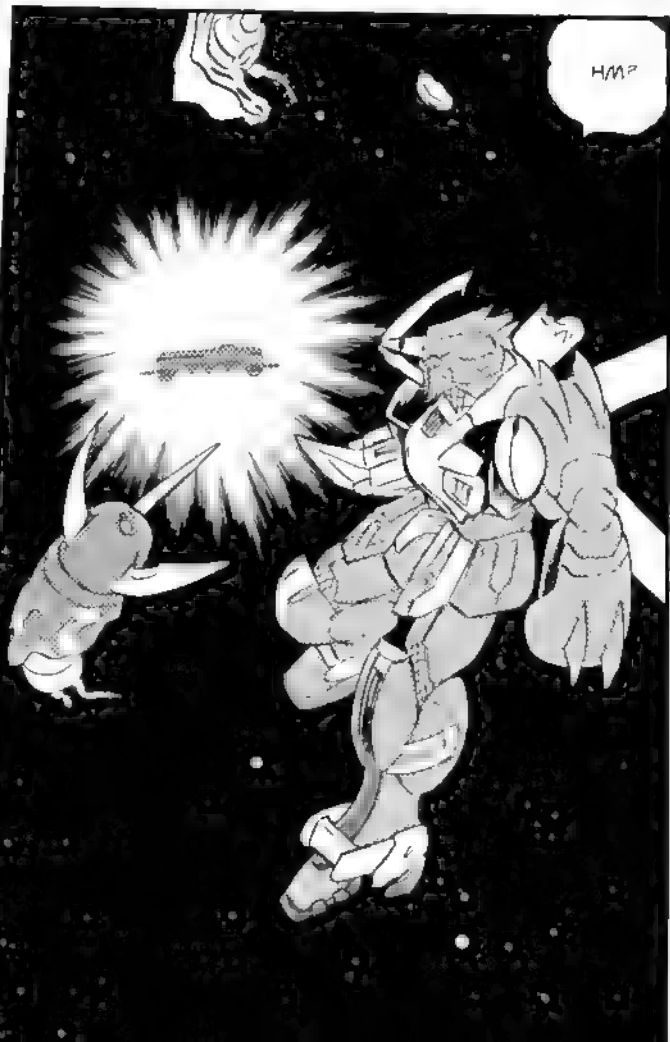
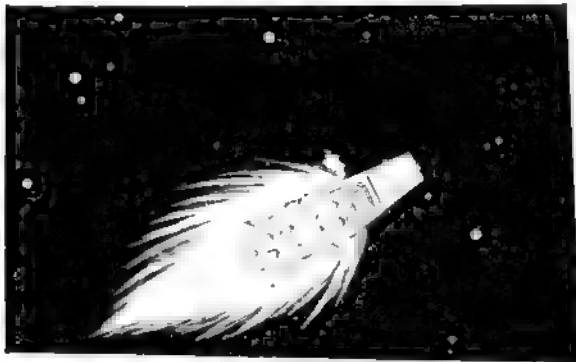


MAKES ME
WANT YOU
AS ONE OF
MY PAWNS
EVEN MORE!

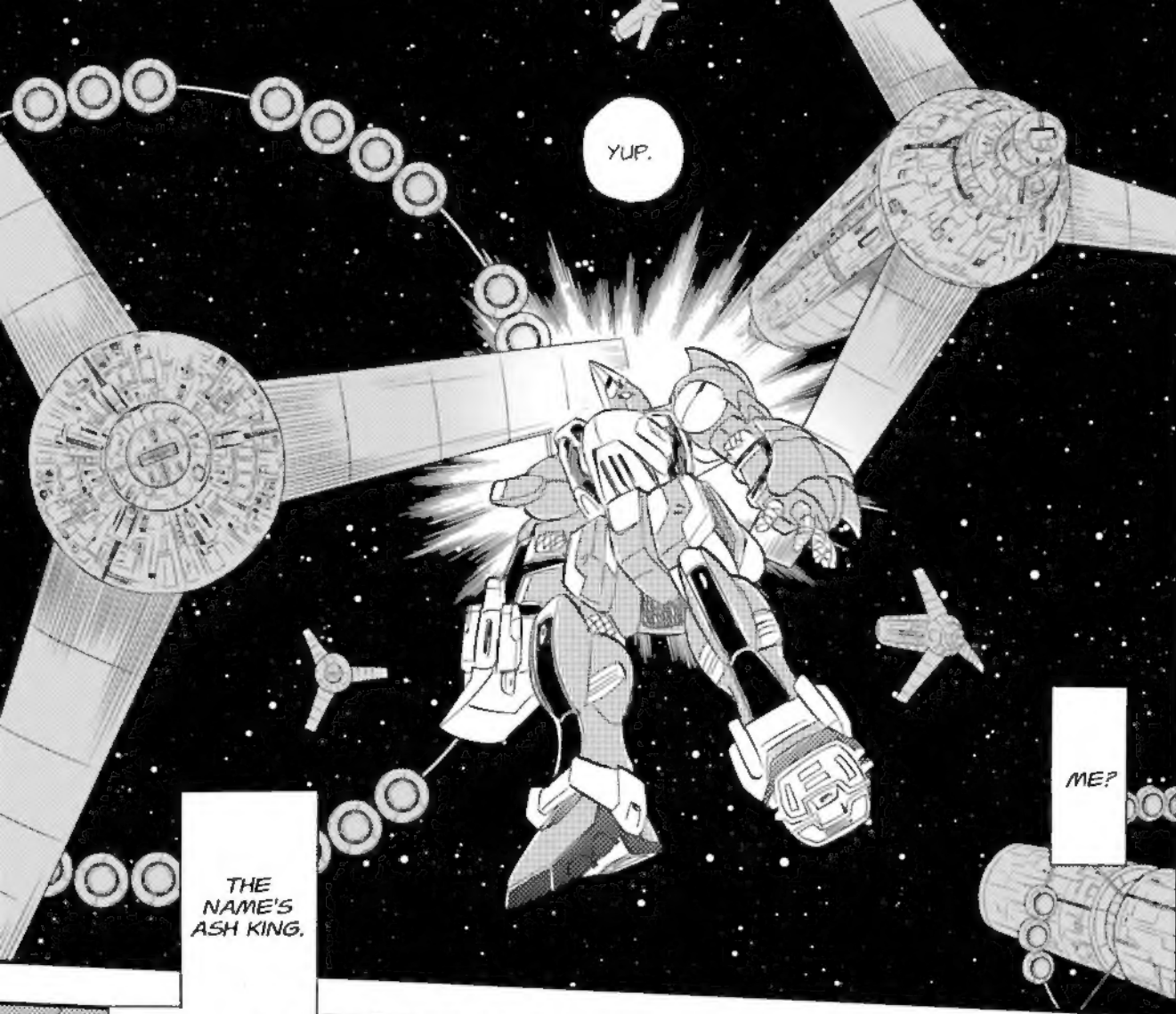


HEH HEH
HEH...
GUTSY AND
SKILLED!

NOT BAD
AT ALL!







THE
NAME'S
ASH KING.

ME?

NOT TOO
LONG
AGO, I
STUMBLED
UPON THIS
PECULIAR
GIRL.



WHAT
SHE
TOLD
ME?



FEELS LIKE
YOU'RE DRIFT-
ING OUT HERE
ON YOUR
OWN, HUH?

IT'S DIFFER-
ENT FROM
WATCHING
FROM THE
SHIP, ISN'T IT?



...I WOULDN'T
EVEN KNOW
WHERE TO
START.

IT'S SUCH
AN OVER-
WHELMING
DREAM...



CREATING
A WORLD
WITHOUT
CONFLICT,
HUH?



MAN,
THAT
CRACKED
ME UP.



'HEY, IF THIS IS
HOW THINGS
ARE GONNA BE,
I COULD LIVE
WITH IT.'

IT WAS A
RUSH, YOU
KNOW?
I'D BEEN
HANGING ONTO
THIS WORLD,
THINKING...

BUT...

...IF YOU'RE
SURE ABOUT
WHICH WAY
YOU'RE
FACING...



THING IS,
THOUGH...

...WITH
THOSE
EYES OF
YOURS
RIGHT NOW.

...AND WHERE
YOU'RE
HEADED, THEN
TAKE A GOOD,
HARD LOOK...

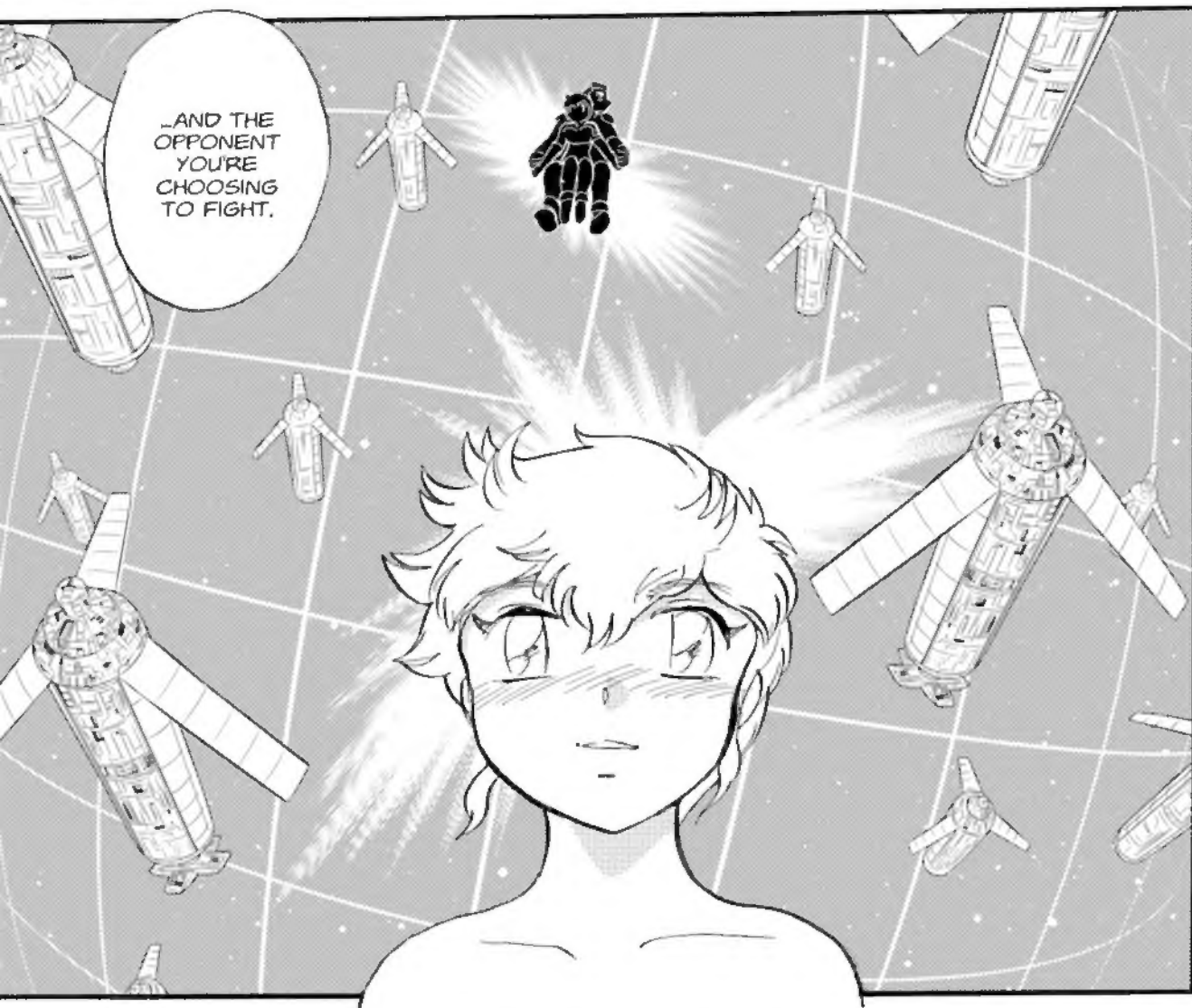
BUT
THEN, BAM!
I JUST CUT
IT ALL
LOOSE. NO
LOOKING
BACK.



I'M PRETTY SURE THAT WAS THE REAL ME SPEAKING. THE PART OF ME I'D KEPT BURIED DEEP DOWN, FINALLY LETTING OUT A PRIMAL SCREAM.



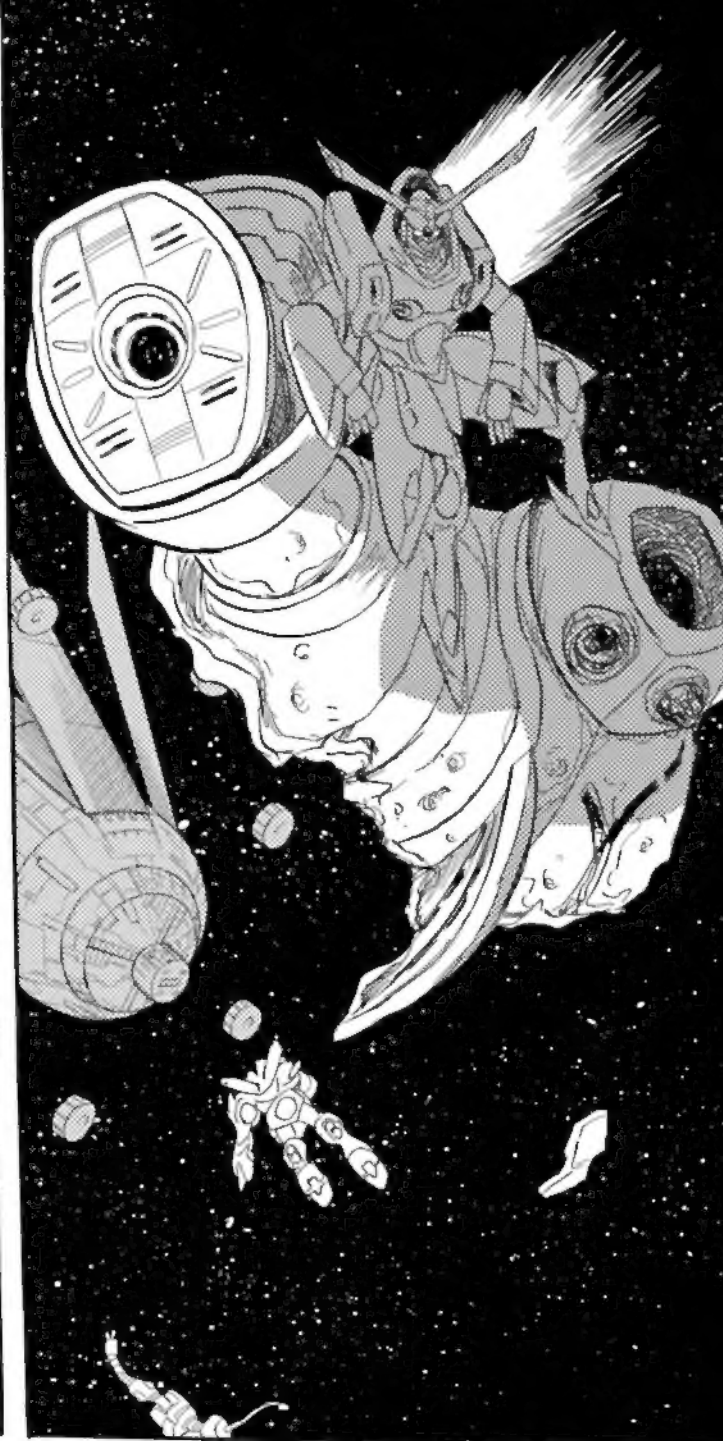
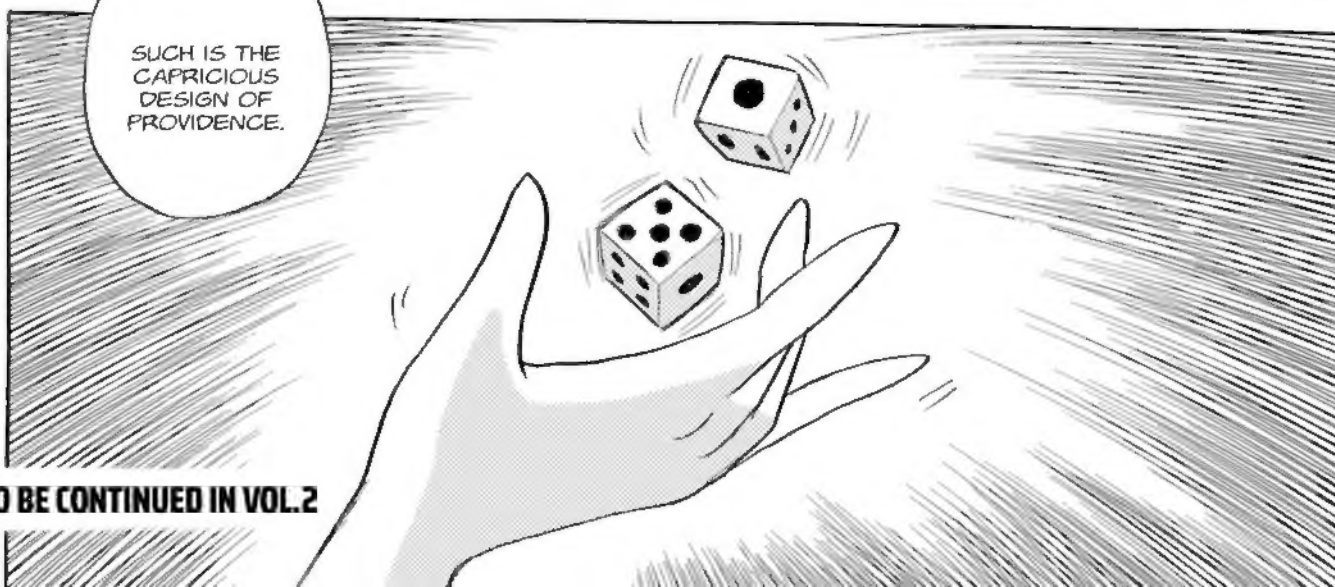
THIS IS THE SHAPE OF OUR WORLD AS IT IS NOW...



...AND THE OPPONENT YOU'RE CHOOSING TO FIGHT.



WELL, THAT GOES FOR ME TOO...



TO BE CONTINUED IN VOL.2